

**Minutes**

**Long Term Care Coordinating Council**

**October 17th, 2007**

**State House Room 313**

**Providence, RI**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

**1) Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts at 10:02 a.m.

**2) Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the September 12th, 2007 were discussed and a change was made to reflect the fact that Mr. Cosper had responded to the inquiry about why the Study Commission he is chairing was formed by replying that he was unaware of the underlying reason for the formation of the student commission.

**3) Nursing Home Deficiencies Report:**

The Chair introduced Ray Rusin, Department of Health. Mr. Rusin presented his report of Nursing Home Deficiencies Monitoring, informing the Council that Evergreen Nursing home is in substantial compliance after their monitoring follow up.

#### **4) Update on HCQPMRP:**

**Dan Meuse presented an update on the efforts underway at the Department of Health and DHS to provide access to information about nursing homes online. Question was raised about who conducts the survey that provides the underlying data for the online reports and Mr. Meuse reported that a private firm called MyInterview.Com conducts the surveys of patients and families and posts the information online. Surveys had been distributed and were in the process of being completed at the time of this LTCCC meeting.**

**Mr. Meuse also described the process by which members of the public can access the survey results online. He recommended that LTCCC participants visit the MyInterview.com site and look at the information already posted on survey results for nursing homes in other states. Mr. Meuse and other LTCCC members also cautioned that of course any survey results provide only a point in time snapshot of perceptions about a particular facility and that it is important to visit and gather additional information to supplement what can be learned from the online survey reports.**

**Chairwoman Roberts states that people need additional resources to make some kind of judgment about appropriate nursing home placement for a loved one. The Lieutenant Governor also reported again that her office will be working with interested parties at the**

**Department of Health and DHS to further develop online resources for discharge planners and families/members of the public. She reported that the LTCCC will host a meeting or meetings to delve deeper into the challenges involved in discharge planning generally.**

#### **5) Senior Agenda Factbook:**

**Jessica Buhler, Senior Agenda, provided LTCCC participants with an overview of the Senior Agenda Fact Book. She informed the LTCCC that the book will be released on Nov 6th. The Fact Book is an important tool for groups such as the LTCCC when in need of reference of certain facts, the fact book contains new indicators seniors with disabilities, the health status of seniors and a variety of other important data points.**

**A question is raised as to how the fact book will be distributed. There will be a mini release campaign, if you purchase a ticket to the kick-off event, you will receive a Fact Book. Also, they are developing a program to make the Fact Book available in a power point format.**

#### **6) Pressure Ulcers Work Group Update:**

**Jennifer Wood reports that the Lieutenant Governor's office has consulted with Director Gifford of the Department of Health and will take responsibility for calling together a work group to delve deeper into the issue of pressure ulcers and all aspects of enhancing the**

prevention of pressure ulcers in Rhode Island. Discussion of the statistics that indicate that Rhode Island has a higher incidence of pressure ulcers than many other states is held and a variety of LTCCC members and participants express a willingness to participate in this important work group. The work group will include broad based participation to ensure that we have a diverse group of opinions.

Roberta Hawkins states she spoke with Dr. Gifford and the Alliance for Better Long Term Care will introduce legislation that will mandate the reporting of bed sores to the Department of Health. She also states that it is important for data to be gathered in order to build knowledge about where (in which clinical settings) pressure ulcers are occurring. This legislation will be taken up by the LTCCC legislative committee and consideration will be given to LTCCC support for the legislation.

Maureen Maigret also reminded the LTCCC that attention needs to be paid to the occurrence of pressure ulcers in all settings, hospitals, nursing homes and the home setting..

Paula Parker, DEA, also stated that community physicians must take some degree of responsibility for the solution to this problem including monitoring and reporting pressure ulcers that occur outside institutional settings.

Roberta Hawkins emphasized the importance of documenting

**pressure ulcers with pictures when they are first detected in any setting (and particularly upon intake if they exist at the point of admission to a clinical setting). Discussion is also held regarding the fact that is much expertise in Rhode Island about care and prevention protocols, as well as knowledge about how to treat advanced or severe pressure ulcers. This knowledge must be shared with care providers and families in all settings in order to better prevent pressure ulcers. This will require a coordinate and comprehensive plan to address the problem across all settings.**

**Maria Barros, Nursing Placement, states that many patients they care for come home from the hospital with stage 1, 2 or 3 sores, so before her agency accepts a patient they conduct a full body analysis and document the patient's condition.**

**Jennifer Wood reminds the LTCCC that this conversation is just the beginning of much deeper discussion that needs to be referred to the work group that will be formed to include the Department of Health and also others who are already working on this issue to develop a more complete response to this challenging situation.**

## **7) Legislative Committee:**

**Senator Gibbs announces a meeting of the Legislative Committee to be held on October 30. All LTCCC members and participants are**

**invited to attend the Legislative Committee meeting.**

**8) Other business:**

**Jessica Buhler, Senior Agenda, suggests that it may be timely for the LTCCC request a progress report on the implementation of the Perry-Sullivan legislation at an upcoming meeting.**

**9) Adjournment:**

**Chairwoman Roberts adjourns the meeting at 11:11am**